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Former CIA Chief Predicts Arms Control Talks Doomed

By H. G. Resa

Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner said in San Francisco yesterday that the Soviet Union gained a "psychological advantage" in the arms control talks when President Reagan fired his two top negotiators.

Turner, speaking to the Commonwealth Club, criticized Reagan's Soviet policy and predicted that Wednesday's firing of arms negotiators Eugene Rostow and Richard Starr will lead to an increase in tensions between the two superpowers.

Rostow and Starr were seen as moderate forces in an administration that has consistently taken a tough anti-Soviet line. Turner said the ouster will result in a less flexible U.S. position on arms control and failure for the negotiations in Geneva.

Turner, who served as CIA director during the Carter administration, said the collapse of the talks would result in a greater U.S. military buildup accompanied by increasing economic problems.

He blamed the current icy relations between the United States and the Soviet Union on Republican "right-wing ideologues" who are influencing arms control policy.

Turner said it is difficult for

Russians Seek Trade Group Link

Geneva

After ignoring the agency for 38 years, the Soviet Union is seeking observer status with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Western officials said yesterday.

United Press

the intelligence community to know if calls for a mutual arms reduction from new Soviet leader Yuri Andropov are genuine or merely propaganda.

On the one hand, the Russians' internal problems with its economy and agricultural production would point to a willingness to want to avoid an expensive arms race. But Turner said that Andropov could also exploit the deterioration in U.S.-Soviet relations to solidify his hold in the Soviet Union.

"The Soviets have long-term problems with a disintegrating society. Therefore, it would be logical for them to want to ease tensions. But can he (Andropov) do that if he wanted to? He hasn't consolidated his power in the Soviet Union.

"It's also possible that he would want to develop tensions with the

United States and point to an American military threat to detract from the country's economic and societal problems," said Turner.

However, he added that the Reagan administration's inconsistent Soviet policy has confused American allies and the Russians, making it more difficult for both groups to understand what policy the United States is following.

"I have seen some confusing signals from the Reagan administration in the last two years," said Turner. "The rhetoric has been anti-Soviet, but the actions have not." The latter was in reference to Reagan's lifting of the grain and Soviet pipeline embargoes.

After his speech, Turner told reporters that these inconsistencies have given Andropov an edge in the recent propaganda battle over arms control.

"The American arms control team and strategy are in total disarray, giving Andropov a psychological disadvantage. He is getting a lot of good press and publicity for being forthcoming on controlling and reducing arms.

"Arms control is a complex issue. But on the surface Andropov scored a lot of points in Western Europe when immediately after assuming office he proposed a mutual arms reduction, which Reagan promptly turned down."